Abstract

Provided in accordance with the invention are a sound source identifying apparatus and method whereby objects as sound sources can be determined as to their locations with higher accuracy by using sound information and image information thereof and are separated from mixed sounds with certainty by using position information thereof. The sound source identifying apparatus (10) is constructed to include a sound collecting means (11) for capturing sounds from a plurality of sound sources (A, B, C)with a pair of sound collecting microphones (11a, 11b) juxtaposed with each other across a preselected spacing D and opposed to the sound sources (A, B, C) and for processing the captured sounds; an imaging means (12) for consecutively imaging the sound sources (A, B, C); a sensing means for sensing objects; an image processing means (13) for deriving information as to locations of the objects possibly being the sound sources, from either or both of image pictures imaged by the imaging means (12) and directional information of the objects sensed by the sensing means; a sound processing means (14) for localizing the locations of the sound sources based on sound information of the sounds captured by the sound collecting means (11) and position information derived by the image processing means (13); and a control means (15) for controlling operations of the sound collecting means (11), the imaging means (12), the sensing means, the image processing means (13), and the sound processing means (14).